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August 22, 2007

**VIA FACSIMILE
(8 Pages Total)**

To: Examiner Joshua T. Kennedy Facsimile No.: (571) 273-8300
Group Art Unit No. 3679
U.S.P.T.O.
BOX AF

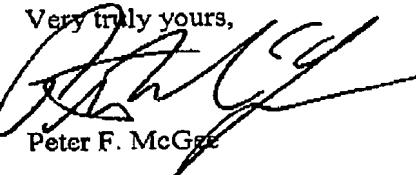
From: Peter F. McGee Facsimile No.: (703) 761-2375

Re: Enclosed Preliminary Amendment
U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 10/773,573
Our Reference: NGB.357

Dear Examiner Kennedy:

Enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment in the referenced application, for which a Request for Continued Examination was filed on August 20, 2007. We request that you enter the Preliminary Amendment, which should place the application in condition for allowance.

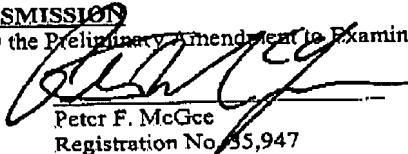
Thank you in advance for your kind consideration on this case.

Very truly yours,

Peter F. McGee

PMcG/SMM/jr
Enclosure

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 the Preliminary Amendment to Examiner Joshua T. Kennedy, Art Unit 3679, on August 22, 2007.


Peter F. McGee
Registration No. 35,947

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Kojima et al.

Serial No.: 10/773,573 Group Art Unit: 3679

Filed: February 9, 2004 Examiner: Joshua T. Kennedy

For: SECURING CLIP

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Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450RECEIVED
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AUG 22 2007PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action dated August 10, 2007, Applicants filed a Request for Continued Examination on August 20, 2007. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are shown beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks are provided in a section beginning on page 7 of this paper.